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Grapplers get busy
Wiesbaden hosts high school championships. See page 16.



RoboWarriors
Students prepare for national robotics competition in Orlando, Fla. See page 20.

Herald Union



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Serving the communities of U.S. Army Garrisons Baumholder and Wiesbaden

March 1, 2012

Town Hall

Bringing a taste of Wiesbaden to Heidelberg Soldiers, families

By Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Europe Soldiers, civilians and families picked up a wealth of information about living and working in the Wiesbaden military community during a special Town Hall briefing Feb. 16 at Heidelberg's Village Pavilion. The special question-and-answer session offered first-hand information from the subject experts to a

standing-room-only crowd and members of the USAREUR workforce and their families via an online AFN-Europe feed and through social media.

Maj. Gen. James C. Boozer, deputy USAREUR commander, and Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commander, welcomed everyone for taking part and said the USAREUR move to Wiesbaden in 2012 and 2013 is the "last bit of churn" to streamline and

See Town Hall on page 3



Photo by Karl Weisel

Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, U.S. Army Europe commander, welcomes attendees to the USAREUR-Move-To-Wiesbaden Town Hall at Heidelberg's Village Pavilion Feb. 16.

DoD announces force reduction

The U.S. Department of Defense has announced, in concert with overall military transformation, plans to adjust the posture of land forces in Europe.

The 170th Brigade Combat Team in Baumholder will inactivate in October 2012, and the

172nd Brigade Combat Team with units in Grafenwöhr and Schweinfurt will inactivate by October 2013.

These units will not be reset (no new personnel or equipment) following their redeployments; however, individual

See Reduction on page 4



Photo by Chrystal Smith

Shooting for glory

Baumholder High School's Dionna Marcus goes up to score over AFNorth defenders during play at the McCully Barracks fitness center as a part of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Basketball Championships. The girls lost to AFNorth 50-18 after winning their opening game against Hohenfels 34-31. Wiesbaden hosted this year's championship play at several German and American fitness centers in Wackernheim, Mainz-Kastel and Wiesbaden. See page 17 for more coverage on the DoDDS-Europe basketball and cheerleading championships.

Feedback: *Do you watch your diet to stay in shape?*



Sgt. 1st Class Travis Chipley
1st Military Intelligence Battalion

"Yes. A couple of months ago I started eating less, watching my portions, not eating late at night and cutting back on sodas."



Kathy Albers
Aukamm Elementary School

"Usually. I try to eat more fruits and vegetables and less junk food."



Melissa Albers
Wiesbaden High School

"I'm a teenager, so not always, but once in awhile. I watch my portions and how often I eat snacks."



Joe Gaynor
Exchange New Car Sales

"No. I don't. I try to, but I don't. I try to stay away from sweets."



Angela Sanders
Community Bank

"Sometimes. It just kind of depends on the day of the week. Monday I am planning on working out."

LEGOs for girls? Of course. All pastel colors? No thanks.

Commentary by Durga Vijayakumar
Special to the Herald Union

We all want our children to grow up to be creative, empathetic, successful and happy human beings. Yet from the moment a baby's sex is known, there is an immediate gendered response that subtly, but very often blatantly, guides children along very traditional ways of being a man or a woman.

One such recent example is the new line of toys from LEGO Group called LEGO Friends that is targeted specifically at girls. It is set in the fictive Heartlake City, which of course must be pink, purple and pastel colored. There are no boys or any of the iconic mini figurines, commonly called "minifigs," in Heartlake City. It is populated by five new LEGO female figurines that are really mini-dolls — taller curvier, and look much like a LEGO Barbie. The sets contain places and tasks traditionally associated with women: a bakery, beauty parlor, cafe, clothing design school and an array of "beauty" accessories. There is little building involved. Are they the same old stereotypes

and portrayals of limiting roles for women in society? Yes.

In 2004, LEGO made a strategic decision to go all out in creating and marketing their products exclusively to boys — a strategy that it had been gravitating toward since the late 1980s. Now after almost a decade of steady growth, LEGO turned its attention to capture the other half of its potential market: girls.

It should have been a no-brainer to understand why girls weren't playing with LEGOs after the initial Duplo bricks and blocks for toddlers. The LEGO universe contained very few female "minifigs." According to some estimates, the ratio of male minifigs to female minifigs is 18 to one. In addition, the LEGO sets were stocked in the boys section in stores, there were no women or girls featured in LEGO ads, and the numerous sets and themes that have been released over the years were entirely male-centered.

As the pop culture scholar Anita Saarkesian explains, "Male-centered means that the focus of attention is on men, their stories and what they do." This is especially true for the

LEGO sets based on movies that are themselves all male-centered movies: *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter* — all of them stories about male protagonists.

This evidently was not apparent to LEGO. After four years of anthropological research and millions spent on studying how girls play, all that LEGO has done is create a line of toys that gender segregates the Friends line from the rest of the LEGO universe by color-coding and reproducing gender stereotypes, and then marketing it to girls.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with baking, taking care of pets, restaurants or working together with friends. What is wrong is creating a line exclusively for girls that is filled with limiting gender stereotypes and segregating it from the rest of the LEGO line — again ensuring that girls don't play with the "regular" LEGOs.

LEGOs are often celebrated as a great toy for developing spatial skills and as a gateway to math, science, and engineering fields. LEGO Group apparently doesn't see this gateway for girls.

Examples of what is happening on our social media:



• Allyson Burns-Snowdon, Kellie Smith and Jennifer Smith Fowler congratulated the RoboWarriors Friday for finishing their robot for the FIRST competition. "Like" us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usagwiesbaden>.



• U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden reminded people to watch the DoDDS-Europe basketball and cheerleading championships in Wiesbaden last week. "Follow" us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/usagwiesbadenpa>.



• U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden posted more than 120 photos last week from Fasching events in the area. See our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wpao>.

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News flash

WAAF Main Gate open mornings

The Main Gate on Wiesbaden Army Airfield is now open to incoming Privately Owned Vehicle traffic (no commercial trucks or tactical vehicles) weekdays (except on holidays and training holidays) from 6-9:30 a.m. The morning opening is aimed at relieving traffic congestion during peak hours to reduce waiting times at the Access Control Points. There will be no signing in of guests or manual look-ups at the Main Gate. People requiring those services must still use the South or Truck Gates.

Outstanding journalists

Several Baumholder and Wiesbaden military journalists were honored in the 2011 U.S. Army Europe level of the Keith L. Ware Competition. The **170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office**, which was deployed to Afghanistan during the competition year, raked in a host of awards including first place for Web-based Publication, first place for Command Blog, first place for News Article (**Spc. Nathan Goodall**) and second (**Staff Sgt. Christopher Klutts**), second place for Human Interest Feature Article (**Klutts**) and third (**Goodall**), first place Photojournalism (**Klutts**) and third (**Goodall**), second place Photograph (**Goodall**), first place Deployed Photograph (**Klutts**), second (**Goodall**). V Corps' **Maj. Adam Wojack** took first place in the Human Interest Feature Article category. Local civilian public affairs practitioners also won awards in the Installation Management Command level of the 2011 Keith L. Ware Competition. These included the **U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office**, second place in the Community Relations Program category; **Jennifer Clampet**, third place Human Interest Feature Article; and **Chrystal Smith**, second place Personality Feature Article and third place Sports Article. Winners advance to the Department of the Army level Keith L. Ware competition. (**USAREUR Public Affairs**)

Earth Day Photo Contest

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden is home to countless plant and animal species. As part of the garrison's Earth Day program, the Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division invites community members to submit their nature-themed photos to compete in the Earth Day photo contest. The contest themed "City Wildlife" should feature photos of the natural environment including landscapes, habitats and animals — exploring and capturing the often unseen or unnoticed animals and plants living within the community. Photos should be taken in and around the Baumholder and Wiesbaden areas, tagged with "Earth Day, shot in 2012 and submitted by April 15, 2012. No more than five photos per person. Winners will receive Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift cards. The best photos (to be judged by the Public Affairs and Environmental Division staffs) will be uploaded to the garrison's Flickr site and featured in the *Herald Union*. Send photographs to [www.usagwiesbadenpao@eur.army.mil](mailto:usagwiesbadenpao@eur.army.mil).



Photo by Karl Weisel

Sweet taste of home

Rhein Main Area USO staff members Johnny Arriaga (from left) and Sue Pantano hand out boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts to Sgt. Kareena Collins and Sgt. Travis Williams during a stop at the 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion Headquarters on Wiesbaden Army Airfield Feb. 23. Krispy Kreme flew thousands of the fresh doughnuts from the United States to Frankfurt International Airport to be delivered to wounded warriors at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and to Soldiers throughout Germany, via the USO.

Town Hall

Continued from page 1

transform the U.S. Forces in Germany. The USAREUR commander also asked listeners to make suggestions whenever they feel things can be done better.

Col. David Carstens, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, introduced the speakers — subject matter experts from the garrison, city of Wiesbaden, Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Commissary Agency, Wiesbaden Health and Dental Clinics.

The briefers addressed everything from cultural events in the Rheingau Region to shopping, leisure and educational facilities available in the Wiesbaden military community. Speakers also detailed housing availability, medical and dental services, and veterinary care.

"If you are coming to Wiesbaden — come to the (Wiesbaden) Housing Office," said Donald Meyer, USAG Wiesbaden housing chief, promising to address any issues concerning housing. He also directed those seeking off-post housing to visit the Army Housing Referral Network website at www.ahrn.com for more information.

Frank Roehl, DoDDS Heidelberg District superintendent, said classes for the 2012/2013 school year will start on Aug. 27. "Pre-registration will be held in Wiesbaden in April," he said, adding that special pre-registration sessions for those moving from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden will also be held at the Village Pavilion May 10 and 11.

In addition to tips for opening a mailbox at the



Photo by Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Europe Soldiers, civilians and family members take part in the Town Hall.

Wiesbaden Postal Service Center (bring ID and orders), registering pets within 14 days upon arrival at the Wiesbaden Veterinary Clinic and hours of medical and dental services, briefers addressed a variety of questions ranging from facilities available on Wackernheim's McCully Barracks and availability of host nation schools in Wiesbaden to whether construction of a new Rod and Gun Club was being considered.

Members of the USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg and Wiesbaden Public Affairs Offices, AFN-Europe and U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office fielded and responded to social media queries throughout the event.

For more information on transformation in USAG Wiesbaden visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/directorates/transformation.asp. For details and frequently asked questions concerning the USAREUR move from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden visit www.eur.army.mil/relocation.

From the blotter

Compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison
Wiesbaden Directorate of Emergency Services

Jan. 21

Baumholder: A noncommissioned officer is being charged with drunken driving after failing a number of sobriety tests conducted by the Military Police.

Wiesbaden: A family member is being charged with assault after an altercation with a Soldier that turned physical.

Jan. 22

Baumholder: A Soldier is being charged with drunken driving after refusing a number of sobriety tests conducted by the Military Police, but verbally stating he had been drinking.

Wiesbaden: A Morale, Welfare and Recreation employee is being charged with a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Jan. 23

Baumholder: A Department of Defense civilian is being charged with a traffic accident after losing control and striking a flower pot owned by the host nation.

Wiesbaden: A DoD civilian is being charged with a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Jan. 24

Baumholder: A Soldier is being charged with owning an unregistered vehicle.

Wiesbaden: An NCO is being charged with owning an unregistered vehicle.

Jan. 25

Baumholder: An NCO is being charged with drunk and disorderly conduct after yelling obscenities at the Military Police and resisting arrest.

Wiesbaden: An NCO is being charged with a traffic accident after losing control and striking a guardrail owned by the host nation.

Jan. 26

Baumholder: An officer is being charged with a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Wiesbaden: An officer is being charged with a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.

Jan. 27

Baumholder: A family member is being charged with owning an unregistered vehicle.

Wiesbaden: An officer is being charged with owning an unregistered vehicle after allowing the registration on his privately owned vehicle to expire.

Jan. 28

Baumholder: A Soldier is being charged with wrongful possession of illegal images on his computer.

Wiesbaden: A Soldier is being charged with a traffic accident after striking a security barrier owned by the U.S. government.

Jan. 29

Baumholder: A family member is being charged with assault after an altercation with a Soldier that turned physical.

Wiesbaden: An NCO is being charged with owning an unregistered vehicle after allowing the registration on his POV to expire.

Jan. 30

Baumholder: An officer is being charged with a traffic accident after driving too fast for road conditions and rolling the vehicle into a ditch.

Wiesbaden: An NCO is being charged with a traffic accident after striking another vehicle.



Photos by Karl Weisel

Rolling into the new parking garage

The first vehicle rolls into the new parking garage on Wiesbaden Army Airfield Feb. 14. Photo right: U.S. and German officials cut the ribbon to mark another milestone in the efforts to transform the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden in anticipation of the move of the U.S. Army Europe Headquarters from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden. The new garage, which features room for 1,100 vehicles, is located next to the Wiesbaden Dining Facility and access is via the fitness center parking lot.



Reduction

Continued from page 1

Soldier training will continue.

Additionally, the Army will reduce the structure associated with the V Corps Headquarters, approximately 750 Soldiers. The V Corps headquarters is preparing for a deployment later this year, and the assigned Soldiers will redeploy here, reunite with their families and obtain new assignments in accordance with standard personnel procedures. The unit itself will not return to Europe.

The Army is reviewing enabler forces and anticipates a reduction of approximately 2,500 Soldiers from smaller support units in Germany over the next several years.

These changes will reduce the number of Soldiers assigned here 25 percent, down to approximately 30,000 by the year 2017.

U.S. Army Europe will work closely with unit leaders and Soldiers to ensure appropriate and timely personnel actions. Officials are currently assessing transformation time lines, taking into account the timing of both deployments and redeployments, and Soldier and family concerns such as tour lengths, reassigning eligible personnel to other units in enduring

communities here housing and attempting to move families with school-aged children in the summer to minimize disruption.

Units remaining will consolidate at enduring communities: Baumholder; Grafenwöhr; Ansbach; Kaiserslautern; Wiesbaden; and Vicenza, Italy. Army Installation Management Command-Europe also manages enduring communities in Stuttgart and the Benelux.

As previously announced, Mannheim, Heidelberg, Bamberg and Schweinfurt are non-enduring and will eventually be returned to the host nation.

U.S. Army Reserve units based at various locations in Europe may be relocated; however, the number of units and assigned Soldiers is not expected to change.

Since 2006, USAREUR has closed nearly 100 sites with a replacement value of more than \$9 billion as part of ongoing consolidation and transformation. USAREUR is also in the process of closing an additional \$5 billion worth of infrastructure in the Mannheim and Heidelberg area which will result in annual savings of more than \$100 million. (U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs)

Patriot passengers arrive in Ramstein

By Staff Sgt. Michael J. Taylor
21st Theater Sustainment Command
Public Affairs Office

After months of planning, coordinating and preparation, 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 1st Human Resources Sustainment Center personnel welcomed passengers from the first Patriot Express flight at the Ramstein Gateway Reception Center Feb. 7.

The Patriot Express is a Department of Defense chartered method of air travel, which transits between the Baltimore-Washington International Airport and Ramstein Air Base. Eventually it will be the primary airlift for Soldiers, family members and Defense Department civilians on permanent change of station and temporary duty orders between Germany and the United States.

Previously the 1st HRSC processed about 19,000 Soldiers and family members yearly at the Frankfurt International Airport.

According to Maj. Patrick Niestzche, the officer in charge of the RGRC and a native of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the RGRC staff set a goal to have all Soldiers and family members in-processed within three hours from the time the first person steps off the aircraft till the time the last person departs on the bus headed toward his or her assigned duty station.

The RGRC not only achieved their goal but completed their mission with time to spare, in-processing 120 person-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Taylor

Soldiers from the 1st Human Resources Sustainment Center assist arriving Soldiers at the Ramstein Gateway Reception Center.

nel in two hours and 40 minutes.

"Today the mission went as we had planned, all time lines were met and we successfully processed all the Army permanent change of station Soldiers and family members through our reception center and on to their community of assignment," said Niestzche.

"Our goal was to be able to process all Soldiers and family members and have them on the way to their gaining military communities within three hours of flight arrival. We were able to accomplish that, which is a huge success for us," said Niestzche. "With this being the first time we have done this process at the Ramstein Gateway, as with any other mission, we came away with a lot of after action review comments and things

we still need to work on internally to make this reception mission an even more efficient and streamlined system."

"One of the guys that I was in-processing said things were flowing really smoothly and that we should keep up the good work," said Spc. Nicholas J. Collington, a liaison at the RGRC and a native of Washington, D.C. "That was a good to hear from a

sergeant first class so I feel the process was very successful."

The reception team at RAB will continue tracking flights and possible delays and be readily available to receive incoming personnel regardless of the time or day the flight arrives.

"On a one-to-10 scale I would give this experience an eight and up, it was an excellent trip and everything else went so smooth. It was well above any other flight I've ever taken," said Spc. Trenton Kerschner, a K-9 handler headed to Wiesbaden and a native of Hot Springs, Va. "I would definitely do this again. If I could catch one of these on leave while I'm going home I would love to, rather than catching a civilian flight."

Illegal imports: Don't risk losing APO privileges

Many U.S. personnel stationed in Germany receive products by mail-order from the United States or other countries.

However, some items may not be mailed to your APO address. U.S. and German customs conduct random checks of APO mail for unauthorized items.

"Using the APO to import any item for resale, a business or volunteer organization is banned," said Bill Johnson, director of the U.S. Army Europe Customs Executive Agency.

He explained that if you want to import items for these purposes, you are required to have them delivered to your German home address and must pay any import duty and tax due. If you don't, you are violating the law and U.S. military regulations by evading taxes.

Counterfeits of trademarked items are also banned from the mail.

"Trademark violations are the illegal use of signs, names, logos and business names that brand manufacturers use to distinguish their products," Johnson explained. Many producers of DVDs and CDs or designer goods such as purses,

shoes or clothing have registered their trademarks with customs which inspects the mail for fake products.

Johnson added that people should not buy medications, diet pills or nutritional supplements by mail order because the importation of those items through the APO is also forbidden. Even items like vitamins or ginseng in highly measured doses may be subject to restrictions.

Food products are also problematic due to animal and plant health regulations. "Meat or meat products like beef jerky, game or ham are banned from the mail, as are canned meats, soup mixes or pasta containing meat."

Caviar from sturgeon is forbidden due to the endangering of all species of sturgeon. There are further restrictions on potatoes, milk products and eggs.

Firearms and ammunition are also restricted items that should only be mailed to Germany if you have the required German permits.

Johnson added that some types of paintball guns and air soft rifles that are available stateside are more powerful

than German law allows and so people should consult customs before having these kinds of weapons sent to them.

Endangered species products are another area of concern. People buying these products add to the risk of animals and plants becoming extinct and customs can fine you and confiscate the goods. Reptile skins are often used in watchbands, handbags, belts, wallets, and shoes. Most crocodile, lizard, snake, and all sea turtle products are prohibited too.

Customs will also stop ivory and whale teeth decorations known as scrimshaw and netsuke as well as many plants such as cacti and orchids.

"You should also remember that coffee, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages are rationed in Germany and may not be mailed via the APO," Johnson said.

Visit your local Customs Office or http://www1.zoll.de/english_version/b0_prohibitions_and_restrictions/index.html for more information. (Customs News Release)

News flash

Logistics Ball

The U.S. Army Europe Logistics Division and 21st Theater Sustainment Command will host the European Logistics Ball March 23 at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village. Guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, deputy chief of staff of the Army for logistics. The theme is "back to the basics" and dress requirement for military attendees is dress blue uniform with bow tie; formal wear with black tie for civilian attendees. Register for the ball at www.eur.army.mil/g4/logball2012. Units are also asked to share photos of logistics Soldiers at work that will be displayed at the ball. Submit high-resolution images with captions to <https://shorturl.portal.eur.army.mil/472eae23> by March 7. Call Jannie Bringman at civ (06221) 57-8506 or mil 370-8506 for more information. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

Supporting AER

The U.S. Army will conduct the 2012 Army Emergency Relief campaign March 1 to May 15. Soldiers can help "support their own" by giving generously to AER. For more information contact Leary Henry at mil 335-5254.

MacArthur awards

U.S. Army Europe recognized 15 officers for excellence in leadership at the 25th annual USAREUR-level Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award Ceremony Feb. 22. Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling commended the Soldiers for their selfless service and dedication to leadership. The MacArthur leadership program was introduced in 1987 to recognize company-grade and junior warrant officers who demonstrate MacArthur's ideals of "Duty, Honor, Country," and have a proven record of extraordinary performance, leadership and achievement. Three of the recipients — Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ou Saepanh, officer in charge of the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office, 24th Brigade Support Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; Camp. Christopher Mercado, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 18 Infantry Regiment, 170th IBCT; and Capt. Craig Halstead, 172nd IBCT; will represent USAREUR at the Department of the Army level competition. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

Reaching out to business leaders, citizens

**Story and photos by
Karl Weisel**
*U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office*

Transformation of the greater Wiesbaden military community will also impact the host nation economy.

With that in mind, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden leaders met with more than 260



members of the Wiesbaden Chamber of Industry and Commerce

and local citizens Feb. 15. Their aim was to provide insight to business leaders, landlords and other interested parties on how construction; an increased American population of about 3,000 Soldiers, civilians and family members; and other factors are already benefiting the local economy financially, culturally and by expanding on years of a closely knit German-American friendship.

"The turnout shows how

important this subject is for Wiesbaden," said Joachim Nolde, chief executive officer for Wiesbaden's Chamber of Industry and Commerce, pointing out that with the construction of a new 326-unit housing complex at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, a brand new Mission Command Center and other projects, "that's reason enough for this event — how can we get along even better?"

Col. David Carstens, USAG Wiesbaden commander, described the ever-changing face of the Wiesbaden military community, which includes installations situated in about a 30-square-mile area in and around Wiesbaden. Detailing the major ongoing projects to meet the needs of members of U.S. Army Europe Headquarters as they transition from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden in 2012 and the ensuing years, Carstens said, "We are extremely proud of these projects because of the wonderful partnership we have had with our contractors and our host nation partners."

The effort to reduce and con-



USAG Wiesbaden leaders take part in an information evening for the Wiesbaden Chamber of Industry and Commerce Feb. 15. Photo left: Col. David Carstens opens the evening.

solidate U.S. Forces in Germany is part of an overall Defense Department decision, he said.

Like most U.S. Army garrisons around the globe, USAG Wiesbaden's is rich with different levels of services and support, but "there are lots of areas where we will turn to you for more variety in services," Carstens informed listeners.

"The bond of cooperation that we have with this great community already exists," he said, pointing out how regular exercises with German first responders and the Bundeswehr help ensure the safety and secu-

rity of all members of the U.S. and German population.

"But we don't just work together. We also have fun together," he said, looking backward and forward to the many cultural and social occasions where Germans and Americans join one another to share experiences.

With the increased population, comes a need for many more off-post rental properties, said Donald Meyer, USAG Wiesbaden housing manager. Sought are apartments and houses for rent within a 50-kilometer radius of Wiesbaden, while military families with school-age children will especially be in need of dwellings that are situated roughly within 25 kilometers of local Department of Defense Dependents Schools and on local DoDDS bus routes.

Dr. Robert Schloesser, USAG Wiesbaden's director of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, pointed out the many opportunities for joint ventures with surrounding communities — partnerships in local traditional fests such as holiday markets and wine fests. He invited local businesses to sponsor military community events and explained how the Value Added

Tax relief program benefits both U.S. military community members and local vendors. "Americans don't like to pay the 19 percent tax if they don't have to," he said, explaining that once vendors get used to using the VAT forms, they are usually surprised by the increased business of American shoppers.

Schloesser also said a German-American Friendship Fest in Mainz-Kastel is in the planning stages for July of this year.

Jan Meert, Wiesbaden Army Community Service director, talked about the many programs in place to help newcomers learn about local cultural opportunities and getting around in Germany. Having English-language signs, information and speakers available greatly assists those new to Wiesbaden. "If you can help me, help the families, that would be greatly appreciated," she said.

Following presentations by several other garrison and city officials, members of the audience were invited to ask questions. They ranged from how to increase German-American student partnerships to specific requirements for housing — whether furnished or unfurnished quarters are sought. "We'll take both," said Meyer.

Throughout the evening both German and American speakers directed listeners to the many online resources available to continue the dialogue and promote partnerships. Anemone Rueger, USAG Wiesbaden's Public Affairs officer, and Simone Zagrodnik, Wiesbaden's tourist service director for the city's Marketing Office, described German and English information pages and links readily accessible at www.wiesbaden.army.mil and www.wiesbaden.de/en/index.php.

USAG Kaiserslautern

Kaiserslautern Church of Christ

Saving the planet, one pellet at a time

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder energy initiatives are saving the planet, one wood pellet at a time. The U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder is moving forward with initiatives to save energy and help create an environmentally friendly community. The latest effort has been to install new furnaces that produce heat by burning wood pellets, which is 30 to 40 percent more economical than using heating oil.

Baumholder currently has about 50 buildings that are not connected to the steam heating system, mostly due to their remote locations. These buildings are currently heated with oil burning furnaces.

To help reduce heating requirements, six wood pellet burning furnaces will replace the aging heating oil furnaces. Three of the new furnaces are already functional and on line. Three more will soon be operational. When the project is complete, the six new furnaces will relieve seven buildings of their heating oil dependency.

Additional funding has been allocated to provide Baumholder with two more wood pellet furnaces that will

heat an additional three buildings.

Converting to wood pellet burning furnaces is in line with Installation Management Command's Line of Effort 6.0 Energy and Water Efficiency and Security. Its critical measures deal with energy reduction, water usage reduction, using renewable energy and waste recycling. It's also the culmination of long planning coming from the Garrison's Zero Footprint planning concept that means energy independence with renewable, self-produced, local energy sources.

The new furnaces have a four-fold effect on the overall energy conservation scheme, according to Sean Lambur, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office director for USAG Baumholder. "The furnaces help create environmental and financial sustainability for Baumholder. We say that wood pellets are environmentally neutral because the same amount of carbon dioxide is released burning as otherwise rotting in forests. Depending on the particular furnace size and location, the renewable wood pellets that we'll need will cost us 30 to 40 percent less than heating oil. That could be more than \$30,000



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Torsten Krueger displays the stuff energy savings are made of — wood pellets used by a new furnace that is now providing heat for two large buildings.

in just one year already and, with only 10 of 50 buildings done, you can see there's lots more to be saved. Local wood pellet supplies give the garrison energy independence compared to imported heating oil," said Lambur.

Weaning the garrison off its heating oil dependency is an unprecedented and ambitious endeavor, but it is not the only thing Baumholder is doing to step up its energy saving program. The implementation of wood pellet burning furnaces represents just the tip of the iceberg in Baumholder's overall energy plan.

Baumholder has also received \$3.4 million to install radiant heating in 11 motor pools that replaces old hot air blowers. "This initiative will save Baumholder more than \$600,000 annually in energy costs," said Lambur.

The use of renewable energy has become more and more prevalent in Europe. Solar panels cover Germany's red rooftops and energy windmills dot the landscape. Some communities have converted much of their open land to "solar farms" and "wind farms" which feed the electrical energy they produce directly into Germany's national energy net.

Baumholder has seen the wisdom and installed 530 so-

lar panels on three prominent buildings. "We plan to install more panels and direct the electricity into the German net and thereby reduce our electrical costs with those rebates," said Lambur.

Looking outside the garrison's borders, Baumholder is moving to establish a partnership between Energy of Idar-Oberstein and the state of Rheinland Pfalz.

OIE is the private heating supplier for the region. "OIE is seeking to build an additional heating plant which burns wood chips that could supply more than 80 percent of the garrison's heating requirement with renewable energy," said Lambur.

In the recycling arena, Baumholder's new trash collection contract is earning money off of metal, glass and paper. That, together with Baumholder's new recycling program, is why all the recycling islands in the housing areas have bins for trash, paper, glass and cans. USAG Baumholder leads all garrisons in Europe in recycling earnings, with more than \$100,000 in fiscal year 2011.

Baumholder is also taking the initiative to educate the community about recycling. The Go Green recycling program was introduced to the workforce and the community

at personnel assemblies and town hall meetings. The garrison's goal is to reach a 42 percent recycling rate. In 2011, the garrison improved from 28.5 to 32 percent in just six months, mostly due to better glass separation in the new islands throughout the housing areas. The program is also being expanded in the home as the garrison hopes to purchase recycling bin sets for all family quarters this year. Many larger recycling bin sets, known by their bright blue (paper), yellow (cans) and red (glass) colors, have been distributed to public areas where Soldiers and civilians work.

Baumholder's energy efficiency and recycling plans are closely related. Recycled materials are also cheaper to dispose of, said Lambur. Going Green, whether in energy or in trash "our goal is to cut costs wherever possible and Go Green at the same time with self-sufficiency wherever possible," said Lambur.

Taking a look at the overall picture, "USAG Baumholder enjoys unique opportunities for energy and recycling management as we operate all heating, electrical and trash systems with our in-house workforce. This control gives us operational flexibility to pursue significant improvements in many areas," said Lambur.

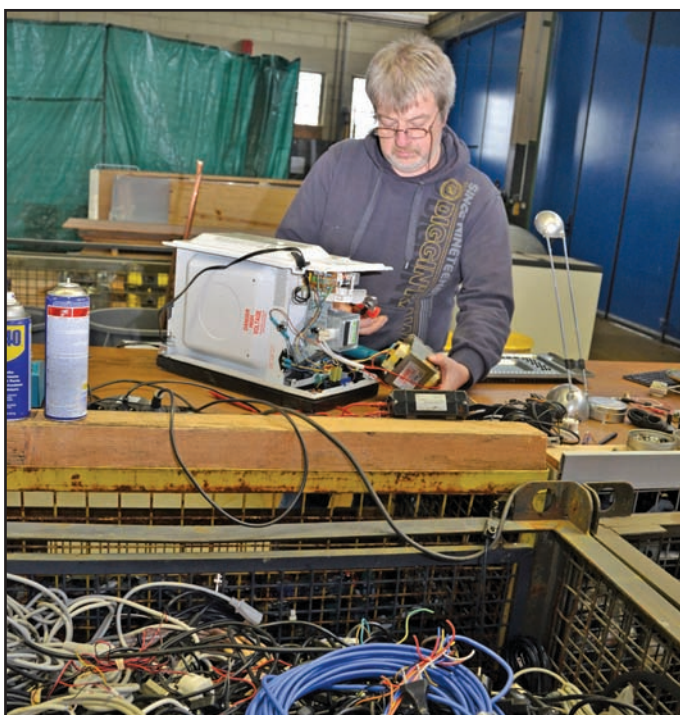


Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Clemens Bambach takes a microwave oven apart and separates the recyclable elements. Baumholder is making money from its recycling program.

In brief . . . In brief . . . In brief . . . In brief . . .

BCSC donates to community

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club distributed \$13,972.46 to the Baumholder community during its spring cycle of contributions.

Organizations receiving contributions included: Army Community Service, Army Substance Abuse Program, Boy Scout Troop 96, Baumholder Middle/High School and Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

Stamp rate goes up

U.S. Postal Service 44-cent stamps have gone up to 45 cents. The post office has one-cent stamps to sell for the price increase.

The Forever stamp rate did not change. If you bought forever stamps before the rate went up the stamp will be worth 45 cents. You will not have to place a one-cent stamp on an envelope with a Forever stamp.

If you have any questions contact the U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Post Office postmaster at mil 485-8771.

Ballroom dance

A new ballroom dance class is for couples or singles seeking an introductory course in basic ballroom dancing. Ballroom dancing is a fun and exciting way to keep fit and learn to partner with others in a social dance setting. Classes are held at the Old Hilltop Theater every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. for ages 15 and older. Men are required to wear soft sole shoes (no

tennis shoes) and slacks. Women are asked to wear long dresses and heels and no jewelry. Cost is \$10 per class or five classes for \$40. The cost for couples is \$14 per class or five classes for \$30. Tickets are available at the Creative Arts Center.

Warrior Zone gaming tournaments

BOSS and the Warrior Zone invite all gamers, fraggers, campers and snipers to First Fridays for a night full of fun, food and gaming beginning March 3. Join BOSS for the Madden 2012 tournaments every first Friday of the month except April and July, when the tournaments will both be held on Friday the 13th.

Represent your unit and become the best gaming warrior. Upcoming tournaments include:

March 2, NCAA College Football

April 13, Modern Warfare III

To sign up call the Warrior Zone at mil 485-7339 or civ (06783) 6-7339. The Warrior Zone, in the community mail room building, is open to all service members free of charge. Children are not permitted.

Make new friends, enjoy trips

Enjoy dinner and discussion during Baumholder's BOSS program weekly get-togethers every Wednesday from 6:30-9 p.m. Get out of the barracks and share dinner and good conversation. This is an opportunity

to make friends and sign up for numerous trips and excursions. Max participation on trips varies. To confirm the meeting and location call the BOSS president at civ (0162) 270-8384. Free shuttle service is offered from the parking lot of Building 8308, chapel one, at 6 p.m.

Bring your bag lunch and learn

Get real answers in a small group setting monthly at noon at the library.

There is a free introduction to library services March 19. Discover a world of information at your library. Bring a laptop, your mobile device or use one of the library computers.

The U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Library Public Catalog is available at: www.library.eur.army.mil.

The library is located in Building 8332 on Smith Barracks. Library hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on Sundays. For more information call mil 485-1740 civ (06783) 6-1740.

Auto resale lot moves temporarily

The Auto resale lot is scheduled to temporarily move from in front of the Hall of Champions to the Wagon Wheel Theater parking lot in the near future due to construction near Museum Strasse. Cost to display a car is \$10 per month. Come by the Auto Skills Center to obtain a parking permit for the vehicle before parking it at the lot.

USAG Baumholder

'Seussical' journeys into the land of the cat

By Cheryl Navo
Hilltop Theater Costume
Designer

The Cat in the Hat is back and he's stirring up trouble at the Baumholder Hilltop Theater. Calling the smallest of small and the tallest of tall, come one come all to see "Seussical the Musical," a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza about the power of imagination and belief in oneself. The Cat in the Hat takes us on an imaginative journey to the world of Horton the Elephant, the Whos of Whoville, Gertrude McFuzz and many other Dr. Seuss personalities.

"Oh, the Thinks You Can Think" captures the show's spirit of imagination, as the colorful characters transport the audience from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the invisible world of the Whos. The story centers on Horton the Elephant, who finds himself faced with a double challenge — not only must he protect his tiny friend, Jojo, (and all the invisible Whos) from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left to his care by the irresponsible Mayzie la Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz, the only one who recognizes "his kind and his powerful heart," never loses faith in him. The Cat in the Hat acts as host and MC, sometimes acting as outside observer, narrator, and devil's advocate — sometimes leaping into the action to create mayhem and keep the story moving. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant.

The cast and crew of more than 40 child and adult actors from both Baumholder and Kaiserslautern military communities are rehearsing long hours in preparation for their performance of this popular musical. A support staff of



Photo by Kara Johnson-Craven

Horton and Gertrude watch as their elephant bird is hatched during rehearsal for "Seussical the Musical" as cast members — (from left to right in the foreground) Johnny Mangum, Connor Walsh and Mallorie Johnson, and (in the background from left to right) Tiffani Morin, Rachel Holliday, Nicole Torres, Shelby Gibbins and Sydney Giefer look on.

directors, choreographers, costumers, lighting designers, set designers, music directors, etc., round out the "Seussical" crew. A team of active duty Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, German local nationals, Department of Defense Dependent Schools teachers and children of all ages, the cast and crew are pulling out all the stops for the entertainment of all.

"For many of our actors, this is their first stage appearance ever. Others are seasoned performers. But, they're all incredibly talented actors, sing-

ers, and dancers. I know that "team Seussical" is going to give an amazing performance," said director Eric Danzeiser. "This is a play where imagination can go off the charts, and that's where we want to take our audience."

"Seussical the Musical," by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, debuted on Broadway in 2000, and is based on the books of Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss), who wrote and illustrated 44 children's books in his lifetime. "Seussical the Musical" is being performed through

special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

"Seussical" opened at the Hilltop Theater the weekend of Feb. 24-25 and continues through the following weekend, March 1-4, with six performances. March 1 will be a special half-price night. The show starts at 7 p.m. March 1, 2 and 3 and at 3 p.m. on March 4. The show is being held at the Baumholder High School Playhouse on Wetzel Kaserne. "Seussical the Musical" will be the Baumholder entry to the Tournament of Plays, a compe-

tion that includes entries from all over Europe with the awards ceremony scheduled for April 21 in Heidelberg.

With a clever script and a fun musical score, "Seussical" is hardly just a show for kids. The entire family is sure to enjoy it.

For information regarding ticket purchase, contact the Baumholder Arts and Crafts Center, Building 8895 on Wetzel Kaserne, at mil 485-6687 or civ (06783) 6-6687.

The Hilltop Theater can also be contacted on Facebook at the Hilltop Theater.

Wasana's Beverage Oasis

Church of God

Joe Satellite

Students win Go Green competition

Six honored for their ideas about protecting the environment

Children from Smith Elementary School were recently asked what they thought about recycling and why it is important. Their opinions reflected everything from the concern for a clean environment to helping nature survive.

The U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, the proponent of the Go Green recycling program in Baumholder, together with school officials, selected six of the best comments from students. These students were named as the first winners of the Go Green contest for the school.

The winners and their comments were:

Shannon Santos, fourth grade, said, "Recycling is important to me because I want to keep the Earth clean. Nobody wants to be suffering because of an unclean Earth. We can have a clean Earth if we recycle. A little bit can go a long way."

Zakkary Lauzon, fourth grade, commented, "Recycling is important because you can make new things out of old things."

"We want the best future we can get, so don't make Baumholder a dump," said fifth grader Jason Brew.

"It helps our environment be a better and safer place for us to live in," said Linda Omali, fifth grade.

Neyshaliz Graciani Santiago, sixth grade, is serious about saving the environment. She said, "So the big tree outside of school will not be cut down. It's my favorite tree."

"Recycling is important because I want to make our world better. I just really think that our world needs care because we do not want to sit, play, swim and eat in trash," said Payton Wofford, sixth grade.

"Our Baumholder students are involved in recycling in the schools and are spreading the word in the community through the media, including writing and performing AFN radio spots," said CJ Black from the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

"Partnering with the schools is but one of the pillars of the garrison's recycling campaign plan, defined by educating and building enthusiasm across the Baumholder community to Go Green.

"The garrison Go Green campaign is continuing to do the same with our other two schools: To share already realized successes, explore the established recycling programs and plans in the schools, and develop a way ahead for community-school partnerships in recycling."



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Winners of the Go Green contest at Smith Elementary School are Linda Omali (from left), Shannon Santos, Zakkary Lauzon, Neyshaliz Graciani Santiago, Payton Wofford and Jason Brew.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Cell phones for Soldiers

Brittany and Robbie Bergquist (center) talk to Pfc. Travis Shinaberry (left) and Pvt. 2 Kenny Flemming both from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, about the Cell Phones for Soldiers program they founded in 2004. The Bergquists visited the Baumholder Post Exchange Feb. 3 to hand out free phone cards to Soldiers. The cards are funded by collecting old cell phones and recycling them. The money earned by recycling goes to purchase the phone cards. Through generous donations and the recycling of used cell phones the brother and sister have distributed thousands of calling cards to Soldiers worldwide. "Cell Phones for Soldiers started as a small way to show our family's appreciation for the men and women who have sacrificed the day-to-day contact with their own families to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces," said the teens' father, Bob Bergquist.

Wiesbaden celebrates Black History Month

Speaker pays tribute to woman who fought for civil rights, started adoption program

By Wendy Brown
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

While Brig. Gen. Nadja West prepared her remarks for the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's African American/Black History Month Observance, she came across the obituary of a woman named Mabel Grammer.

The celebration's theme was "Black Women in American Culture and History," and West thought a speech that included Grammer's life story would lend itself well to the subject.

West was correct, but as her speech revealed near the end, she is a master of understatement and surprise. Grammer, who fought for civil rights causes and spearheaded an overseas adoption program after World War II, she died in 2002 at the age of 88.

West, commander of the U.S. Army Europe Regional Medical Command and command surgeon, told the story of Grammer's life to an audience of about 250 people at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Feb. 16.

As West told the audience, Grammer was one of seven children born to a bellhop and his wife in Hot Springs, Ark, in the early 1900s. After her father died of heart problems, the family was extremely poor.

The family was so poor that when Grammer came down with appendicitis as a young girl, her mother could not afford the surgery required to save her life. The family doctor resolved to make Grammer as comfortable as possible before she died.

Instead of dying though, Grammer miraculously went on to live — in the truest sense of the word.

"As Mabel grew up, that determination and drive stayed with her, and although the odds of succeeding were quite small, she knew she could overcome those odds and make a difference. And just like Booker T. Washington, she always knew that education was the key," West said.

Grammer went on to graduate from beauty school, and then used the money she earned as a hairdresser to pay her tuition at Ohio State University where she studied journalism. After graduation, she wrote for the *Afro-American* newspaper in Baltimore, which started in 1892 and is still in business today.

"It was now the 1940s and it was Mabel's time to truly make

a difference, and she did so with a passion," West said.

Grammer, along with a photographer from the newspaper, risked her life on many occasions to expose injustices and give a voice to the disenfranchised, West said.

"She took on many issues, often enlisting the assistance of Thurgood Marshall, the Supreme Court justice who then was a civil rights lawyer, who traveled around the country working on many cases, usually for no pay other than a place to stay," West said.

She enlisted the support of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to make it so black members of the Women's Army Corps could serve overseas and was also instrumental in getting the government to desegregate Arlington National Cemetery, West said.

"Did she impact our culture and history? I think so. But her story didn't stop there. She has countless other contributions in the civil rights arena, but she always felt that she could do more," West said.

Grammer married a U.S. Soldier in 1950, and while stationed overseas she helped arrange the U.S. adoptions of more than 500 abandoned or orphaned children. Grammer could not have children due to complications from her appendicitis, so she and her husband Oscar adopted 12 children of their own,

West said.

One of her sons became an Army command sergeant major and one daughter retired from the Navy as a master chief petty officer, West said. Another is a teacher in Alaska in a Native American village and has adopted a son of her own. There was not enough time to share all the stories of Grammer's children, she said.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI presented Grammer and her husband with the Papal Humanitarian Award, West said.

"I think about how different America would be today if many years ago that determined little girl who refused to die had succumbed to her illness," West said. "All of the individual, positive changes she made may not have occurred.

"Over 500 children could have easily wandered off the face of the earth, unknown, not knowing the love of a family, and I definitely would not be standing here in front of you today. I am one of those 12 children who benefited from her and my father's unending love and great and decent example of what human beings should be," West said.

After West concluded her speech, the audience gave her a standing ovation.

Jia Cade, a fifth-grader at Hainerberg Elementary School, also impressed the audience with her speech. Cade won a fifth-grade essay contest about Black History Month, and although she brought a copy of her speech with her to the



Photo by Chrystal Smith

Brig. Gen. Nadja West delivers the keynote address at the event.

podium just in case, she relied mainly on her memory as she delivered it with a strong, clear voice.

"I am grateful for Black History Month because if it wasn't for all of the people who risked their lives for freedom, then I wouldn't be allowed to do many of the things that I like to do," Cade said. "I wouldn't be able to go to the same school as some of my classmates. I wouldn't be able to use the same water fountains or the same bathrooms when most of my classmates would.

"If you were black and your best friend was white and someone told you that you couldn't play with her or him because of his or her skin color, how do you think you would feel?" Cade continued.

Jia's mother, Tene Cade, said she is extremely proud of Jia's accomplishment. "I'm just really overly excited," she said.

The festivities also included an interpretive dance by Danielle Stevens, a selection of music from the Wiesbaden Community Gospel Warriors and lunch. The 66th Military Intelligence Brigade hosted the event in conjunction with USAG-Wiesbaden and the community's equal opportunity advisers.

Shay Boast, a freshman at Wiesbaden High School, sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing: the Negro National Anthem" during the event and afterward cut a cake with West and Cade. "We are really lucky that we're able to do things like this during Black History Month," she said.



Photo by Chrystal Smith

Danielle Stevens inspires the audience at the Wiesbaden African American/Black History Month Observance as she performs an interpretive dance piece to Heather Hedley's "I Wish" at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center Feb. 16.

Finance classes teach people how to save

Community members take advantage of free classes during Military Saves Week

By Wendy Brown
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

Spc. Jordan Reyelts listened intently during the financial management classes he attended during Military Saves Week.

"I'm here to solidify my financial stability and protect the future of my child," said Reyelts, who is married and has a 2-year-old daughter. "It's been really informative."

About 20 people attended the four financial fitness classes, which were titled Saving and Investing, Retirement, Saving for College and Loans and Credit Score. Leary Henry, the Army Community Service financial readiness manager, organized the Feb. 22 event at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center.

Henry kicked off the event by suggesting one way many people could save a significant amount of money each year.

If a person spends \$4 a day on coffee for four years, Henry said, it adds up to a considerable amount of money — \$5,844.

Military Saves Week's main goal is to get people to save money and decrease consumer debt. Since the program began in 2006, more than 100,000 mili-



Mark Vehr, a volunteer with Army Community Service financial readiness, teaches a class on how to save money at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center during Military Saves Week.

tary members and their families have taken the saver pledge, according to the program.

Saving money is all about keeping the money you make — no matter what your income, said Gary Braden, who taught the class on retirement and is a former vice president of Integrated Financial Planning Services in Heidelberg.

To hold onto money, it is

important to use credit wisely, avoid debt, live on less than you make and set goals, Braden said.

Saving for an emergency fund is one place where military members get a break, Braden said.

Since there is more financial security in the military, Braden said an emergency fund of \$1,000 for a single Soldier is enough, and \$2,000 for a couple. On the other hand, married

military members often suffer financially because the military spouse unemployment rate is three times higher than the rest of the population, Braden said.

It can often take a military spouse a long time to find a job after each move, Braden said.

Mark Vehr, a volunteer for ACS financial readiness who spent 23 years in the Air Force, taught the class about saving and investing money. He dispelled

the idea that in order to be rich, people have to be born that way. "What you really need to do is set yourself up to be rich," he said.

An important first step is for people to make sure they pay themselves first, Vehr said, otherwise, it is unlikely there will be anything left to save at the end of the month.

Some ways to save money include buying used items online, not carrying credit cards, waiting for free shipping, waiting for seasonal sales, packing your lunch, using coupons and giving yourself a waiting period for what might be impulse buys, Vehr said.

The "coffee factor" is also important, Vehr said.

One of the most important steps to saving money is to set goals — short term, medium term and long term, Vehr said. Once the goals are set, follow the steps to attain them consistently.

Another important step to saving money is having a budget and sticking to it, Vehr said.

Sudarat Kirby, widow of Staff Sgt. Darian Kirby, said she attended the classes in hopes of learning financial information to share with other widows.

"You can never know too much," Kirby said.

For more information about Military Saves visit www.militarysaves.org.

Cool GmbH

Immanuel Baptist Church

**MLP
Finanzdienstleister**

Frame Center

Autohaus Haese

**Thai Massage
Praxis**

Engineers Week: Putting theory into practice

Story and photo by

Karl Weisel

**U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office**

A partnership at one Wiesbaden school is bringing the study of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) classes to life for middle school students. As the unit partner for Wiesbaden Middle School, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, shares its experience, expertise and know-how — helping underscore the real-world applications of those subject areas.

“We work closely with the principal at the beginning of the year to see what students need,” said Jennifer Aldridge with the USACE, Europe District, Public Affairs Office. “We want to tie in to what the students are doing in the classroom and be relevant.”

“With the big focus on STEM, we’re trying to help bolster student interest in those

areas,” Aldridge said.

Ben Jones, an architect with the corps, was a guest speaker in Mely Arnold’s eighth-grade mathematics class Feb. 23 during National Engineers Week.

“This is very relevant to what they’re doing in class,” said Arnold, explaining that having guest speakers such as Jones and fellow engineers, the students can see the connection between the theory and its application.

It also promotes the school’s Continuous School Improvement goal of ensuring that “all students raise their mathematic and computational skills in all content areas,” she said.

“This is an opportunity to give back,” said Jones, who joined the Europe District last October and has worked with the Corps of Engineers for more than two years.

“Being an architect in Europe is like being a kid in a candy store,” he said, describing the opportunity to examine some of the world’s great architectural



Ben Jones, an architect with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, talks about his profession during a visit to Wiesbaden Middle School Feb. 23.

works first-hand. “There’s such a rich history and lots to be learned here in Europe.”

Demonstrating some of the computer applications architects use to design structures — SketchUp and AutoCAD — Jones told the students, “You can create photo realistic images on the computer that you can’t by hand.” But, he also pointed

out, being able to draw can help the architect in showing a client what a building or buildings might look like when completed in their natural surroundings.

Jones, who studied architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology and worked for the Savannah District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before coming to Germany,

also stressed the importance of learning good communications skills while in school. “Another important task that we do is coordinating the design of a structure with the engineers.”

Students asked a wide variety of questions ranging from the importance of studying calculus in college to what an architect studies.

“Architectural programs put a lot of emphasis on architectural development,” Jones said, explaining that a building might represent various aspects of society — “people, politics, culture.”

Students were also curious as to which types of engineers had the “hardest” jobs. “It really depends on the type of project,” said Jones, adding that structural engineers might have the most challenging tasks.

Jones’ visit was one of several by USACE professionals aimed at helping put a face on how classroom learning is applied in real-world occupations.



Photo by Anemone Rueger

Joining in the Fasching fun

Col. David Carstens (right) joins German officials at a Fasching event in Mainz-Kastel. Photos right and below: Wiesbaden Girl Scouts take part in the Wiesbaden Children’s Fasching Parade Feb. 18. Some 55 Girl Scouts and siblings participated.



Photos by Cindy Fry

Autohaus Hollmann

Students gain leadership skills at annual seminar

By Wendy Brown
*U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office*

Wiesbaden Middle School students who attended this year's Junior Leadership Seminar in Oberwesel attended several sessions aimed at improving particular skills, such as how to reach a group consensus.

When they returned, however, they had little trouble coming to a consensus about the seminar as a whole. It was a positive, life-changing event, they said.

"I learned that it's always better to have a win-win situation than a win-lose situation," said Giovanna Castellanos, 14 and in the eighth grade.

Castellanos, president of the student council, said the seminar will help her improve teamwork and be more organized during student council meetings.

Eight students from Wiesbaden attended the five-day seminar, and in all, 141 students from Department of Defense

Dependents Schools in Europe attended, said Josephine Whalen, 13, a seventh-grader who attended the seminar. School administrators chose which students would attend the seminar based on their responses to essay questions.

"I thought it would be a really good experience to learn how to be a better leader in the school and increase teamwork," Whalen said, adding that the seminar met her expectations.

Ryan Keeley, 13, said he learned a lot about communicating with people in groups and also with people who do not agree with each other.

Frankie Nielsen, the school's counselor, said this was the 27th year that DoDDS has hosted a leadership seminar for middle school students, said.

"It's such a fabulous opportunity. They really get a wonderful leadership opportunity. Every year they come back and beg to go back the next year, but



Ryan Keeley (right) shares a smile with his mother at Wiesbaden Middle School after he returned from a five-day leadership seminar in Oberwesel.

it's not allowed," Nielsen said.

There are 10 groups at the seminar, so students from the same schools are split up, and have to meet new people,

Nielsen said. They cannot rely on people they already know for support.

In addition to Castellanos, Whalen and Keeley, Abigail

Waugh, Lauren Closs, Malorie Johnson, Ashley Busby, David McDowell and Valerie Johnson attended the seminar, Nielsen said.

USAG Wiesbaden

Community notes ... Community notes

Blood Drive March 9

Stop by the Tony Bass Fitness Center March 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to give the gift of life. The Blood Drive is sponsored by the American Red Cross and 1st Military Intelligence Battalion. Visit www.militarydonor.com to register with the Armed Forces Blood Program.

Rock-a-Bye Baby Fair

The Wiesbaden Entertainment Center holds an Army Community Service-sponsored Rock-a-Bye Baby Fair March 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The free event is for expectant parents and those with children up to six months old. Call civ (0611) 408-0234 for details.

AWAG Coffee Social

AWAG invites community members to a Coffee Social March 7 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hainerberg Chapel. Guest speaker Jill Vogel will discuss "exploring personality traits" — ways to better understand one's self and others — to help in one's marriage, workplace and other situations. Mothers can bring their babies if six months or younger. Call Joyce Schloesser at civ (06128) 489 202 or Trish Holt at civ (0611)

3601 387 to reserve a space. Wiesbaden volunteers join others from around Germany for the annual AWAG Conference at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort May 6-10. If you are interested in going as a delegate contact your Family Readiness Group or Joyce Schloesser (see number above).

Awana Grand Prix

Children ages 3 to sixth grade are invited to enjoy games, stories and songs at the chapel-sponsored Awana meetings. An Awana Grand Prix will be held March 20 from 5-8 p.m. Food and car registration will be held at 5 p.m. with the races starting at 6 p.m. Email Rachel Kistler at luvbnmomof6@yahoo.com for more information.

Job, Career Expo

The Wiesbaden Entertainment Center will be the site of a Job and Career Expo March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Diane McManus at civ (0611) 4080-234 for more information.

Digital Scrapbooking

Army Community Service hosts a Digital Scrapbooking Class April 26 at 10 a.m. at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Bring your laptop with

wireless access and your photos to work on a project. Your finished book will be mailed to you courtesy of the USO for free.

Asian Pacific Heritage volunteers sought

Interested in volunteering to help make Wiesbaden's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration one to remember? Singers, dancers and individuals willing to share their Asian Pacific dishes and culture are invited to get involved. Call Sgt. 1st Class Garcia at mil 337-7039 or civ (0611) 705-7039.

FRG treasurer training

Army Community Service holds Family Readiness Group treasurer training March 13, June 12, Sept. 11 and Dec. 12. Learn how to handle the funds for your FRG. Materials and instruction are free. Call mil 335-5254 or civ (0611) 408-0254 to register.

Children's flea market

A children's items flea market will be held March 24 at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Set up is at 8 a.m. Doors open at 9 a.m. for expectant mothers and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all others. Cost is \$20 to reserve space and a table. Sign

up at Outdoor Recreation or the WEC. Call civ (0611) 408-0335.

Tax Center now open

Get free help with filing your federal and state income taxes at the Wiesbaden Tax Center, located in Room 207, Building 1043 (Tony Bass Fitness Center). The center is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call mil 337-4755 or civ (0611) 705-4755.

Transition sessions

The Wiesbaden Transition Center offers **Career Status Bonus/REDUX briefings** on the following dates: March 15, April 12, May 17, June 14, July 12, Aug. 16, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6. The briefings offer comprehensive information on all aspects of the CSB and REDUX retired pay system. Soldiers reaching

14-and-a-half-years of active duty should attend. Briefings are held in Room 107, Building 1023W on Wiesbaden Army Airfield from 1-3 p.m. Soldiers and their families are invited to attend a preretirement briefing before making retirement plans. **Preretirement briefings** will be held in the Building 1023E conference room on Wiesbaden Army Airfield from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 11, July 11 and Oct. 10. Army Regulation 635-10 requires that honorably transitioning Soldiers (not retirees) attend a **pre-transition briefing** at least 90 days before transition date. Briefings will be conducted from 9 a.m. to noon in the conference room in Building 1023 E on Wiesbaden Army Airfield March 15, April 12, May 17, June 14, July 12, Aug. 16, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6. Call mil 337-6296 to reserve space.

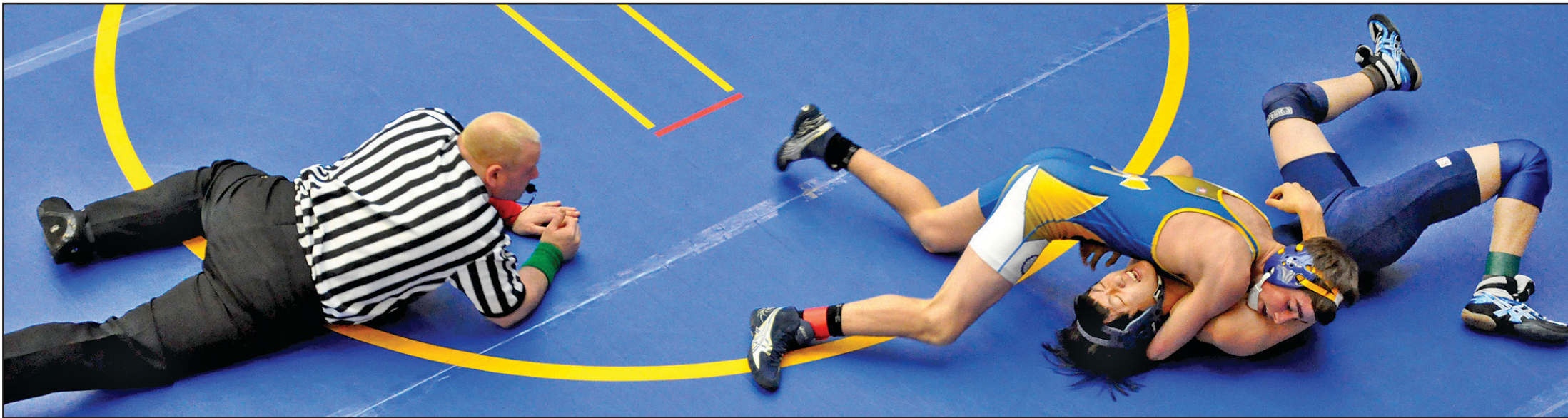
AdvantiPro Job Ad



Photo courtesy of Kelly Eckl

Scouting out finances

Emily Russell, a teller at the Wiesbaden Community Bank at the Hainerberg Shopping Center, describes security features incorporated into currency to prevent counterfeiting to visiting Tiger Cub Scouts. The Scouts, from Pack 65, toured the bank to complete a Tiger elective that requires them to visit a bank.



Wiesbaden's Brendan Sturman pins Black Forest Academy's Keith Min during a fifth round match on his way to claiming fifth place at 126 pounds.

Photos by Karl Weisel

DoDDS wrestlemania

Baumholder, Wiesbaden grapplers battle their way to medals

If you are a fan of takedowns, joint locks and pins, then you certainly got your fill at the European Wrestling Championships Feb. 17-18 in Wiesbaden.

More than 155 wrestlers from 21 schools traveled from around Europe to compete at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe championships hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center.

For two days grapplers battled through the tournament preliminary rounds vying for a berth in the matches to determine the best six wrestlers in each weight class on Saturday afternoon.

In the end there were the usual mixture of upsets and expected results.

While neither Baumholder nor Wiesbaden wrestlers managed to claim the gold, by the championship's end, a host of athletes from both schools fought their way to the top six rungs.

Baumholder's Blake Brittain at 106 pounds, Wiesbaden's Dante Thomas at 120 pounds and Wiesbaden's William Heiges in the 200-pound weight class all made it to the championship finals claiming silver. It was a big step up for Heiges who last year took fourth place at 215 pounds at the European Wrestling Championships.

Baumholder's Andrew Hooks repeated his bronze medal finish of last year in the 112-pound weight class, taking bronze again in the 113-pound weight class with a 6-0 point victory against Black Forest Academy's Victor Baart.

Wiesbaden's Brendan Sturman was also a return placer, having taken fifth place last year at 119 pounds, and this year claiming the fifth spot in the 126-pound weight class.

Two Wiesbaden wrestlers also secured sixth-place finishes — Jesse Davis at 160 pounds and Alex Hess at 195 pounds.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Wrestlers fight their way through the early rounds on four mats in the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Photo right: Baumholder's Blake Brittain (top) battles Ramstein's Steve Cavanaugh. The Baumholder wrestler won silver at 106 pounds.



Photh by Steve Kulmala



Photo by Steve Kulmala

Wiesbaden's Dante Thomas lifts Patch's Isaac McIlvene. Thomas claimed silver at 120 pounds



Photos by Karl Weisel

Wiesbaden's William Heiges takes down Patch's Andrew Mineni before pinning him on his way to earning silver in the 220-pound weight class. Photo below: Baumholder's Andrew Hooks pins Black Forest Academy's Henry Paige. Hooks went on to earn bronze in the 113-pound weight class.



Major airtime: *High school basketball and cheerleading championships*

Baumholder and Wiesbaden High School athletes fought for bragging rights in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Basketball and Cheerleading Championships Feb. 22-25 in and around Wiesbaden.

While neither Baumholder nor Wiesbaden were in the run to win the championship, several individual athletes received all-tournament honors. Baumholder Girls Varsity player Dionna Marcus was selected as a member of the Girls Division II team and Wiesbaden Boys Varsity guard Roscoe Johnson garnered Division I honors.

Despite not placing as a team in the cheerleading competition, Nicole Gilstrap, Joseph Griffith, Tyla Larry and Shyanne Wardle were selected as members of the Division I Cheerleading team.



Photos by Chrystal Smith

Tahrell Harris climbs high above a Vicenza defender to attempt a dunk during play at Wiesbaden High School Feb. 22. Photo right: Roscoe Johnson goes up over Lakenheath's defense to shoot for two points Feb. 23 at Wiesbaden High School. Photo below: Tyla Larry twirls in midair after being tossed high above the rest of the Wiesbaden Cheerleading squad during the DoDDS Cheerleading Championships Feb. 25 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center.





Photo by Leo Pacher

Fabulous finish

Wiesbaden Wahoos member Chantel Wynn takes a big stroke in the 15-16 Girls 100-meter Butterfly finals to finish first with a time of 1:09:67 during the European Forces Swim League Championships at Eindhoven, the Netherlands, Feb. 19. Wynn was a major point getter for the Wahoos during the championships and took home four additional gold medals from the post season competition. Another big winner for the Wahoos was Tyler Peng, who met competition in the boys 8 and under categories and won the Pentathlon, which is a cumulative award for the season. The previous year Peng swam and won the same events and honors as a 7-year-old. Wynn and Peng were among the top point getters in their respective age categories.

USAG Stuttgart

Sports shorts

Spring Soccer Camp

Wiesbaden's Child, Youth and School Services holds a Spring Soccer Camp for ages 8-15 (minors, bantams and juniors) April 9-13 at the German field in Mainz-Kastel. Cost is \$119. Call mil 337-7965, civ (0611) 705-7965 or email ingo.rhiel1.ln@mail.mil for more information and to register.

Fitness Fair

The 2012 Fitness Health Fair will be held March 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Stop by to enjoy free fitness demonstrations including yoga, pilates, step, spin, Krav Maga, Kettle Bell and massages. Call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541 for details.

Softball coach sought

A Mainz softball team seeks an American to help coach a German team. A pitcher is also wanted. Games are March 30 through June 20. Call Ken Hoefel at civ (0172) 6307 452 or send an email to ken.hoefel@mainz-athletics.de.

Freedom Run

Wiesbaden Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Andrews Federal Credit Union host the Credit Union 10-mile Freedom Run March 31 starting at 9 a.m. at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Registration will be held from 7-8 a.m. and the first 250 runners to register will receive a commemorative coin and T-shirt. The event will also feature a five-kilometer run and half-mile children's run. For more information or to register call mil 337-5541 or stop by the Andrews Federal Credit Union branch at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Basketball tournament

An Army Emergency Relief three-on-three basketball tournament will be held March 1 starting at 1 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. The first 10 teams to sign up get to play for the chance to win the grand prize of a Playstation 3. Call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

Volleyball tryouts

Men and women ages 18 and older are invited to Baumholder's Hall of Champions March 12 at 6 p.m. to try out for volleyball teams. It's free for all U.S. ID cardholders. Sign up at the Sports Office in Building 8105.

German fishing course

The garrison's Hunting, Fishing and Sport Shooting Program hosts a U.S. Forces Fishing Course April 28-29 and May 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation. Learn about the fishing laws, diseases, equipment and more. Cost is \$60 per person or \$75 per family. Call civ (0611) 705-5760.

Soccer, track and field coaches sought

The Wiesbaden High School Warriors are looking for interested/experienced candidates to coach soccer and track and field during the spring sports season. The season runs from March 6 to May 26. Call James Campbell, high school athletic director, at civ (0611) 408-0351 or email James.Campbell@eu.dodea.edu to get involved.

Punk rock yoga

Enjoy this unique spin on traditional yoga — Monday to Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Call civ (0611) 705-5541 for details.

Krav Maga classes

Krav Maga self-defense classes are held Tuesdays and Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Stop by the center for details.

Spicing up the dance floor

Dancers get steps down with help from USO instructor

By Wendy Brown
U.S. Army Garrison
Wiesbaden Public Affairs
Office

Charlotte Stumpf watched Jesus Basail's feet carefully as she tried to follow his every move during the Salsa Sweetheart Latino Night Feb. 17.

Basail is teaching Stumpf and her fiancé Patrix Haddad how to salsa dance before their wedding in June, and she wanted to make sure she got it right. "Everyone in our families knows how to salsa dance, so we wanted to learn," said Haddad.

In light of the salsa event, Basail had moved the Friday night class from the USO Cottage to the Cappuccino Ca-

sino, where DJ Spike played Latin music for everyone. There, students could stay for 50 minutes — the standard amount of time for the classes — or five hours.

Basail, who teaches a variety of dance classes for the USO, said he hoped to make more people aware of the classes, which include salsa, ballroom, swing and tango. An eight-class group session costs \$65, and four-class private sessions cost \$140 per couple or \$100 for an individual.

Arthur Murray International Dance Studios trained him as an instructor, and he follows the studio's teaching method, Basail said.

People learn quickly,

and they have fun while doing it, Basail said.

"I've loved every minute of it," said Michael Ware, who has taken Basail's salsa classes for six weeks and was at the event to practice.

Jaime Jerez, a teacher at Wiesbaden Middle School, said he took Basail's classes a while ago with a group of other teachers, but attended the event because he loves salsa dancing.

Debra Powell, a school counselor at Aukamm Elementary School who also attended the salsa event, said she organized the classes that Basail took when she was the school counselor at the middle school.

The dance classes, which took place immediately after school, were a fun way for teachers to get a workout, Powell said. "When you do physical exercise, it contributes to your mental ability too and



Photo by Wendy Brown

Charlotte Stumpf watches the fancy footwork of her salsa dance instructor Jesus Basail during the Salsa Sweetheart Latino Night on Feb. 17 at the Cappuccino Casino.

helps eliminate stress," she said.

For more information, pick up a copy of the USO's *Eine Brücke* at the Hainerberg Shopping

Center or find it online at <http://affiliates.uso.org/rheinmain/files/eine%20bruecke%202012%20Q2.pdf>.

For a listing of local

places to salsa dance, see "Things to Do," on the garrison's home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil. There are also listings at www.salsa.de.

USO Easter tours

The Rhein Main Area USO features a variety of special Easter tours including **Kloster Eberbach Easter Egg Market and Ruedesheim** March 4, **Sonnenbuehl Easter Egg Museum and Metzingen Outlet** March 17, **Trier Easter Market** March 24, **Nuernberg Easter Market** March 31 and **Colmar Easter Market** April 7. Stop by any Rhein Main Area USO for more information.

Live at the Frankfurter Hof

Mainz's Frankfurter Hof features the **Joscho Stephan Quartet** (gypsy swing) March 4, new age flamenco guitarist **Ottmar Liebert** March 6 and **Irish Spring** (Irish folk festival) March 7. Visit www.frankfurterhof-mainz.de for details.

Irish Pub gigs

Wiesbaden's Irish Pub presents **Rockhouse** March 2,

Things to do ... Things to do

Planet Sulo March 3, **Steven McGowan** March 8 and 17, **Timmy Rough Duo** March 9, **Eight Balls** March 10, **Mad Mac** March 15 and **Declan Daly** March 16. Enjoy **karaoke** March 4, 6, 11 and 13 or take the stage for **open stage nights** March 7, 14 and 21.

Live at the Alte Oper

Frankfurt's Alte Oper offers several highlights in the coming months including an homage to **Andrew Lloyd Webber** March 8, **Don Quixote** March 18, the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** March 20, **Loreen McKennitt** March 22, **Lucio Dalla and Band** March 23, **Sweet Soul Music Revue** March 27, **United**

Kingdom Ukulele Orchestra March 27, **Randy Crawford and Joe Sample Trio** March 28, **Jeff Dunham** April 30, **James Taylor** May 9 and **Lord of the Dance** May 19.

Call civ (069) 1340 321 or visit www.alteoper.de for ticket information.

Outdoor Rec trips

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation offers ski and snowboard trips to **Interlaken** March 9-11, **Austria** March 15-19 and the **Black Forest** Feb. 25. **Paris** city express trips will be offered Feb. 18 and March 17. Call mil 485-7182 for more information.

Wiesbaden's Outdoor Recreation invites winter sports

enthusiasts to join any of their upcoming trips to **Engleberg, Switzerland**, March 16-18; **Ischgl, Austria**, March 2-4; **Bad Hofgastein, Austria**, March 9-12; **Interlaken, Switzerland**, March 23-25; and **Kaprun, Austria**, March 30 to April 1. Trips are also scheduled to **Calella, Spain**, April 5-13; **Boleslawic, Poland**, May 11 and **Rovinji, Croatia**, May 24-28. Call civ (0611) 705-5760 or mil 337-5760 for details.

Theater tickets

Make reservations now for the Amelia Earhart Playhouse's upcoming productions of "I Hate Hamlet" and "Songs For A New World." The dramatic comedy, "I Hate Hamlet" will be featured at the Wiesbaden theater March 8-11 and 15-18. The musical "Songs For A New World" takes center stage March 29-31, April 1 and 12-

15. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. (except Sundays at 6 p.m.). For reservations and more information call mil 336-2473, civ (0611) 816-2473 or email ameliaearhartplayhouse@yahoo.com.

'Music Man'

The Theatre Unlimited Performing Company and the English Theatre Frankfurt present "The Music Man" March 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 and April 1. Shows are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and noon on Sundays. The theater is located at Gallusanlage 7 in Frankfurt. Call civ (069) 2423 1620 or visit www.english-theatre.de for tickets.

Bingo at the WEC

The Wiesbaden Entertainment Center features new bingo cards and power handsets for its bingo games every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Call mil 335-5190 or civ (0611) 408-0190 for details.



Schoolbits

Big Bucks Auction

Wiesbaden High School's Big Bucks for College group invites all adults to a "March With the Romans" benefit dinner and auction March 2 starting at 6 p.m. at the Community Activity Center. Tickets are \$30 per person including a wine tasting, dinner, auction and dancing. All proceeds go to support scholarships for the continuing education of graduating seniors. Email BBFC2012@googlemail.com for tickets.

Student grades falling?

Did you know you can be notified by email whenever your child's grades fall below a certain level? Log in to GradeSpeed, click on "Triggers" and choose which options you want by checking the boxes (check "Send Email") and click "Update." School officials ask that you be sure to have a current email address on file by going to the "My Settings" link. (Courtesy of Wiesbaden Middle School's Wildcat Update)

Bake sale and more

The Wiesbaden Senior Parent Association holds an antique furniture and bake sale at the Wiesbaden Middle School gym March 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A portion of the sales will go to support Wiesbaden High School's 2012 Project Graduation. Call Donna Wardle at civ (0611) 238 4719 for more information

Driver's education

Wiesbaden's SKIES Unlimited program offers driver's education for high school students March 12 to May 23 Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. The course is taught by Army-approved driving schools in Germany. Call Wiesbaden's Parent Central Services at mil 337-7928 or civ (0611) 705-7928 for details.

Used book fair

Aukamm Elementary School Parent Teacher Association holds a used book fair through March 2. Call Mary Maxwell at civ (0162) 7250 459 for more information.

UMUC registration open

University of Maryland University College Europe's registration for Spring 2012 session two is now open through March 18. Contact a local field representative in the education center or visit www.ed.umuc.edu to learn more about registration, field study and financial aid

Robo battle: Wiesbaden RoboWarriors prepare for competition

**Story and photo
by Wendy Brown
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office**

Members of Wiesbaden High School's RoboWarriors team spent more than 4,000 hours building the "Frau POW 4.0" robot in six weeks, and they handled the robot's last challenge with grace.

That challenge was how to get nearly 400 pounds of robot, shipping crate and tools down the stairs and onto the curb so Federal Express could pick it up.

The team did it the smart way — by taking down the crate in halves and the robot separately.

Frank Pendzich, the team advisor and the school's engineering and technology instructor, worked with six team members to pack up the robot Feb. 23. From Wiesbaden, the robot will travel to Orlando, Fla. to compete in the FIRST robotics competition from March 8-10.

The team, like all of the 2,300 teams expected to participate this year, had only six weeks to build a robot that will play a game called "Rebound Rumble," which is a "twisted version of basketball," said Pendzich.

Casey Mann, the team's vice president and a RoboWarrior for all three years of her time in high school, said that for the past six weeks, Pendzich and the 17 team members who are going to the competition have worked on the robot every day after school and on the weekends.

Pendzich has worked so hard that the team has nominated him for the Woodie Flowers Award, which is for mentors



Chris Bradford drills a screw while securing the shipping crate that will carry robot "Frau POW 4.0!" to Orlando, Fla. There, Wiesbaden High School's RoboWarriors will compete in the FIRST robotics competition.

who have inspired teams, Mann said. "He's just so hard working," she said. "I drive to be like him, to be that committed. He will definitely be one of my role models in life."

Inventor Dean Kamen, most widely known for creating the Segway Personal Transporter, founded the FIRST organization in 1989 as a way to promote science and technology in schools. It is based in Manchester, N.H. Woodie Flowers, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is also a founder.

Kevin Marshall, a senior who joined the team this year, said he decided to join the RoboWarriors because he enjoys computer programming, and he put his skills to work programming the robot.

"It is a hobby of mine," Marshall said. "It gives me stuff to think about

in my free time."

At the competition, Marshall said he will be part of the team that drives the robot. Getting the robot over a series of three ramps will probably be the biggest challenge, he said.

Eli Kraft, a junior who also joined the team for the first time this year, said he became a RoboWarrior because he plans to be an engineer and likes to build. At the competition, he will be a member of the pit crew, he said.

Although the robot is on its way to the competition, the team will continue to work, Pendzich said. They built a prototype robot to practice with until they leave for the competition. This is the fifth year Wiesbaden has competed in the competition.

To learn more about FIRST, visit www.usfirst.org.

Schools celebrate Read Across America

**Story and photo by
Chuck McCarter
Wiesbaden Middle School**

Schools in the Wiesbaden area will join the National Education Association March 2 in building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America.

In its 14th year, the program uses events, partnerships and reading resources to motivate children and teens to read.

NEA's Read Across America Day, a national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, and around the world, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing youths, adults and books



Hainerberg Elementary School first-grade teacher Joy Ubaniak holds a tray of "Red Fish, Blue Fish" cupcakes.

together. The theme is green for a very special 2012 Read Across America celebration as NEA will showcase Seuss' famous book "The Lorax."

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

Here in Wiesbaden, you might see some unusual sights in schools on March 2, including children in pajamas or costumes, parents and teachers sporting red and white striped top hats, and maybe even some "Green Eggs and Ham."

Students at Wiesbaden schools will join an estimated 45 million peers across the world to celebrate the joy of reading. At the middle school, teachers are planning a variety of activities.

Hainerberg Elementary School first-grade teacher Vicky Hayes, who shares a March 2 birthday with Dr. Seuss, is enthusiastic about the event saying, "If you can read, you can learn about anything in the world. Anything."

For more information, visit www.nea.org/grants/13026.htm.



Dr. Suess' "The Lorax" (voiced by Danny DeVito) is brought to life on the big screen.

At the movies March 1-15

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

March 2 — One For The Money (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 3 — This Means War (PG-13) 4 p.m.
 New Year's Eve (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 4 — Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 4 p.m.
March 9 — Joyful Noise (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 10 — Big Miracle (PG) 4 p.m. Act Of Valor (R) 7 p.m.
March 11 — The Adventures Of Tintin: The Secret Of The Unicorn (PG) 4 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

March 1 — The Sitter (R) 7 p.m.
March 2 — We Bought A Zoo (PG) 7 p.m. Act Of Valor (R) 9:30 p.m.
March 3 — Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 4 p.m. Act Of Valor (R) 7 p.m. Immortals (R) 9:30 p.m.
March 4 — Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 4 p.m. Act Of Valor (R) 7 p.m.

March 5 — Act Of Valor (R) 7 p.m.
March 6 — We Bought A Zoo (PG) 7 p.m.
March 7 — Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 8 — J. Edgar (R) 7 p.m.
March 9 — Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 7 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 10 — Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 4 p.m. The Adventures Of Tintin: The Secret Of The Unicorn (PG) 7 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 11 — The Adventures Of Tintin: The Secret Of The Unicorn (PG) 4 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 7 p.m.
March 12 — Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 7 p.m.
March 13 — Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 14 — We Bought A Zoo (PG) 7 p.m.
March 15 — The Adventures Of Tintin: The Secret Of The Unicorn (PG) 7 p.m.



Daniel Craig and Simon Pegg lend their voices to the characters in "The Adventures Of Tintin: The Secret Of The Unicorn." Photo right: Matt Damon stars in "We Bought A Zoo."



Movie plots

Act Of Valor (R) — A Navy SEAL squad is on a covert mission to recover a kidnapped CIA agent and in the process take down a web of terrorist cells determined to strike America at all costs. Stars Roselyn Sanchez, Emilio Rivero and Nestor Serrano.

We Bought A Zoo (PG) — Based on a true story, a widowed father buys a dilapidated zoo in hopes of making a fresh start. Facing enormous odds, he and his children, along with a small but loyal staff, work to get the zoo re-opened. Stars Matt Damon and Scarlett Johansson.

The Adventures Of Tintin: The Secret Of The Unicorn (PG) — Tintin is on the trail of a big story which leads him into a world of high adventure. When he and his friends find the directions to a sunken ship, they go off to find the treasure it contained and Tintin must face the notorious Red Rackham. Stars Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg and Andy Serkis.

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) — The animated adventure follows the journey of a 12-year-old as he searches for the one thing that will enable him to win the affection of the girl of his dreams. To find it he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. Danny DeVito lends his vocal talents to the iconic title character of the Lorax, while Ed Helms voices the enigmatic Once-ler.

One For The Money (PG-13) — A proud, born-and-bred Jersey girl, Stephanie Plum (played by Katherine Heigl), has plenty of attitude, even if she's been out of work for the last six months and just lost her car to a debt collector. Desperate for some fast cash, Stephanie turns to her last resort: convincing her sleazy cousin to give her a job at his bail bonding company as a recovery agent. While she doesn't own a pair of handcuffs and her weapon of choice is pepper spray, that doesn't stop her from taking on Vinny's biggest bail-jumper — former vice cop and murder suspect Joe Morelli — the same Morelli who seduced and dumped her in high school. Also stars John Leguizamo and Debbie Reynolds.

The Sitter (R) — Jonah Hill plays a college student on suspension who is coaxed into babysitting the children next door, though he is fully unprepared for the wild night ahead of him.

J. Edgar (R) — As the face of law enforcement in America for almost 50 years, J. Edgar Hoover was feared and admired, reviled and revered. But behind closed doors, he held secrets that would have destroyed his image, his career and his life. Under the direction of Clint Eastwood, Leonardo DiCaprio stars in the title role, a drama that explores the public and private life of one of the most powerful, controversial and enigmatic figures of the 20th century. Also stars Judi Dench and Naomi Watts.

Freestyle

Freestyle

Freestyle

Freestyle

Freestyle

Freestyle

Freestyle

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Freestyle
